



Afghan Border Police enhance ops with new radios, equipment

*Office of Security Cooperation—
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Kabul, Afghanistan—A group of military communications experts from the Office of Security Cooperation—Afghanistan deployed to Herat Province recently to deliver new communications equipment to the Afghan National Police's 6th Afghan Border Brigade.

The ANP will use the high-powered vehicle radios, man-portable radios and fixed-base stations to assist border security, customs revenue collection and counter-narcotics operations.

"We are providing the necessary tools for the 6th Afghan Border Brigade to gain greater control of the border in their area of operations," said Army Col. Barringer Wingard, chief of operations in the OSC-A Police Reform Directorate.

"This will greatly enhance their ability to accomplish the mission. But this is a first step in an ambitious long-term goal to provide command and control from Kabul to the remote borders of Afghanistan," Wingard said.

The delivery of new equipment is part of a much larger combined effort on the part of Coalition partners, OSC-A, the German Police Project Office, the United Nations, and the Afghan Ministries of Interior and Communication.

"A united effort will ensure long-term success in this project as everyone brings unique skills and perspectives to the program," said Marine Capt. Brant Frey, communications operations officer with the



Photo Courtesy of OSC-A PRD

Afghan Border Police communications officers and noncommissioned officers work with an Office of Security Cooperation—Afghanistan team to raise an antenna tower at the 6th Brigade Headquarters at Herat.

OSC-A PRD.

The 6th Brigade was selected as the first border police unit to receive the equipment since it is the largest of the eight border police brigades. The brigade's area of operations covers more than 750 miles of border with Iran and Turkmenistan, and encompasses the Afghan provinces of Herat, Baghdis and Farah. There

are also two major border crossing checkpoints in this area.

Col. Mohammed Ayob Safai, 6th Border Brigade Commander, said the equipment will allow him to exercise command and control of his unit along the Afghan border.

"The new equipment is essential for our control of operations," Safai said. "We are able to solve many

difficult problems along the border posts and prevent illegal activities and violations along the border.”

He added that the police officers are encouraged by the communications. “This equipment has proven critical for collecting intelligence and maintaining the status of my commands. After the installation of the new equipment on the border, we have already made two large narcotics arrests,” Safai said.

Before the new equipment was fielded, the OSC-A team trained key brigade officers in the installation, operation and maintenance of the systems.

“Finding the right people to operate the equipment is essential,” Frey said. “Many of the key communications officers were chosen because

they had already received extensive computer and communications training from the German Police Project Office.”


“Ultimately, it’s the Afghan Border Police 6th Brigade that will be responsible for the effective use and maintenance of the equipment,” Frey said. “With the training and assistance of the Coalition, I am certain they’ll achieve great success.” 



Photo Courtesy of OSC-A PRD

Border police members complete installation of high-frequency antennas near Islam Qalat in western Afghanistan. They were trained by Coalition forces from the Office of Security Cooperation—Afghanistan on how to install and configure the equipment.



Photo Courtesy of OSC-PRD

Members of the Afghan National Police Quick Reaction Force at the 6th Border Brigade Headquarters assemble for training using man-portable, high-frequency radio systems in a tactical environment.